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TROCHODOTA DUNEDINENSIS IN VICTORIA

We are indebted to Mr. M. J. Allan of Geelong, Australia, for the following facts concerning this Holothurian now reported for the first time from Victoria (Cario Bay) and hitherto recorded only from New Zealand:

In conformity with its genus it has in the skin numerous wheel plates, and the spicules have loops on one end and hooks on the other. The form is very transparent and forms a most interesting subject of study with the microscope because of the possibility of working out many details in the behavior of its internal organs. The power of changing form thru muscular contraction, so characteristic of holothurians, is thus subject to detailed study in life, not commonly found in animals of this size. The degree of contraction and elongation is said to be very remarkable.

An ecological point of interest is the uniform occurrence together of *Trochodota* and *Synapta digitata*, another member of the Holothurians. They seem to lay their eggs together, where they become attached to the marine growth in the mud at the bottom of the bay.

REGENERATION OF SECTIONS OF ARTERIES

Carrel (Jour. Exp. Med., Aug., 1911) reports that a section of artery extirpated and patched by rubber tubing may be regenerated completely, about this foreign structure as a frame work, by the adjacent parts of the vessel, and become functionally complete.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION

The book with this title, by Dr. Francis H. A. Marshall, is well conceived and will prove a valuable book to the teacher and general student. It is somewhat more limited in scope than its title would indicate. With the exception of a general chapter on the "Breeding Season" in animals in which a few representatives of various phyla are used to illustrate certain principles; and of infrequent references to the condition in the lower forms, as in the chapter on fertilization, the book is confined to the reproductive processes in mammals and in man. The reader naturally wishes that work so well done might have given somewhat more space to the broader,

comparative view, and have found more illustrations from the lower organisms.

Some of the main topics considered and their sequence are as follows:—the breeding season; the oestrous cycle in mammals; changes in the non-pregnant uterus during that cycle; the formation, development and issuance of the gametes; fertilization; the biochemistry of the organs of sex and their products; the phenomena and structures of gestation; lactation, etc. Three general chapters follow, dealing with fertility, with the factors that determine sex, and with the individual life cycle.

In method of treatment and spirit the book is admirable. The author has done for the student a tremendous amount of work in bringing together the results as recorded in a most varied literature. Ample citations to the literature are made for the use of the general student of the subject, and the bibliographical references are given at the bottom of the page, being brought up to 1908-09.

The reader will be most favorably impressed by the fairness with which the author deals with the results of the various investigators from whom he quotes, and with the sanity and judicial quality of the syntheses of these and the conclusions to be had from them.

It is quite impossible in a brief review to do justice either to the way in which the standard material has been handled, or to the treatment of the newer subjects, such as the bio-chemistry of the sexual organs and their products,—both the cellular products and the internal secretions.

The Physiology of Reproduction, Francis H. A. Marshall; 706 pages, with illustrations. Longmans, Green & Co., New York and London; price, \$6.00 net.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

A further study of the comparative histology of femoral bones has been continued in the Department of Anthropology of the United States National Museum, Washington, by the courtesy of Dr. Silas Hrdlicka, curator of the Department of Physical Anthropology.

The study has been confined to human bones. Embryological, infantile, adolescent and adult femora of the ancient Egyptian, Pe-